STIPULATION AND PROTECTIVE ORDER

Plaintiff Aetna Life Insurance Company ("Plaintiff"), on the one hand, and

Defendants Joseph Fahr, DDS and A Beautiful Smile Dental Center - GP

("Defendants"), on the other hand, (Plaintiff and Defendants are sometimes referred

to herein as "the Parties" or each as a "Party") hereby stipulate to, and request entry

1. A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

of, the following Protective Order (the "Stipulation").

As the parties have represented that discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information (including confidential health information) for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted, this Court enters the following Protective Order. This Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery. The protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. Further, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, this Protective Order does not entitle the parties to file confidential information under seal. Rather, the parties shall seek permission from the Court pursuant to file material under seal, the parties must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5 and with any pertinent orders of the assigned District Judge and Magistrate Judge.

B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

In light of the nature of the claims and allegations in this case and the Parties' representations that discovery in this case will involve the production of confidential records, and in order to expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of such material in connection with

this action, to address their handling of such material at the end of the litigation, and to serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such information is justified in this matter. The parties shall not designate any information/documents as confidential without a good faith belief that such information/documents have been maintained in a confidential, non-public manner, and that there is good cause or a compelling reason why it should not be part of the public record of this case.

2. **DEFINITIONS**

California.

2.1 Action: The instant action: *Aetna v. Fahr, et al*; Case No. 2:23-cv-10577-RGK-JC, pending in the United States District Court for the Central District of

2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of information or items under this Order.

2.3 "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the Good Cause Statement.

The term Confidential Health Information shall constitute a subset of Confidential Information, and shall be designated as "CONFIDENTIAL" and subject to all other terms and conditions governing the treatment of Confidential Information. Confidential Health Information shall mean information supplied in any form, or any portion thereof, that identifies an individual or subscriber in any manner and relates

care to such individual or subscriber, or the past, present, or future payment for the

to the past, present, or future care, services, or supplies relating to the physical or

mental health or condition of such individual or subscriber, the provision of health

provision of health care to such individual or subscriber. Confidential Health 1 2 Information shall include, but is not limited to, claim data, claim forms, grievances, 3 appeals, or other documents or records that contain any patient health information 4 required to be kept confidential under any state or federal law, including 45 C.F.R. 5 6 Parts 160 and 164 promulgated pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and 7 Accountability Act of 1996 (see 45 C.F.R. §§ 164.501 & 160.103), and the following 8 subscriber, patient, or member identifiers: 9 10 names; a. all geographic subdivisions smaller than a State, including street 11 b. address, city, county, precinct, and zip code; 12 all elements of dates (except year) for dates directly related to an c. individual, including birth date, admission date, discharge date, age, and 13 date of death; 14 telephone numbers; d. fax numbers; 15 e. f. electronic mail addresses; 16 social security numbers; g. medical record numbers; 17 h. health plan beneficiary numbers; i. 18 account numbers; į. 19 certificate/license numbers; k. vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plate numbers; 1. 20 device identifiers and serial numbers; m. web universal resource locators ("URLs"); 21 n. internet protocol ("IP") address numbers; o. 22 biometric identifiers, including finger and voice prints; p. 23 full face photographic images and any comparable images; and/or q. any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or code. r. 24 25 2.4 "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL -- ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" Information 26 or Items: extremely sensitive "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items, the 27

disclosure of which to another Party or Non-Party would create a substantial risk of serious harm that could not be avoided by less restrictive means.

- 2.5 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their support staff).
- 2.6 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL -- ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY."
- 2.7 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.
- 2.8 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.
- 2.9 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action. House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.
- 2.10 Insurer: any insurance company entity or person associated with such entity that may have underwritten the insured risk associated with this Action and/or any claims asserted therein.
- 2.11 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.
- 2.12 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and have appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

2.13 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors, employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their

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2.14 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery

support staffs).

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Material in this Action.

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2.15 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and subcontractors.

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10 2.16 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated

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as "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL -- ATTORNEYS' EYES

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ONLY."

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2.17 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a Producing Party.

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3. **SCOPE**

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The protections conferred by this Order cover not only Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any deposition testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material, other than during a court hearing or at

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trial.

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Any use of Protected Material during a court hearing or at trial shall be governed by the orders of the presiding judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material during a court hearing or at trial.

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4. **DURATION**

Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action, including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time pursuant to applicable law.

5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating Party to sanctions.

If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of Section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

(a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL -- ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" to each page that contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be deemed "CONFIDENTIAL." After the inspecting Party has identified the documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the "CONFIDENTIAL", or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL -- ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" legend to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

(b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identifies on the record, before the close of the deposition as protected testimony.

- (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL -- ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY." If only a portion or portions of the information warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).
- 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

- 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court's Scheduling Order.
- 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process under Local Rule 37-1 et seq.
- 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

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Bound" (Exhibit A);

- (g) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);
- (h) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;
- (i) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party requests that the witness sign the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A); and (2) they will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Protective Order; and
- (j) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.
- 7.3 Disclosure of "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL -- ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" only to:
- (a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this Action;
- (b) Defendants' Insurer and its authorized representative(s);

- (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);
- (d) the court and its personnel;
- (e) private court reporters and their staff to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);
- (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);
- (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information; and
- (h) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL -- ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY," that Party must:

- (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order unless prohibited by law;
- (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or

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order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Protective Order; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL -- ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party's permission, or unless otherwise required by the law or court order. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

A NON-PARTY'S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE 9. PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

- (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this Action and designated as "CONFIDENTIAL" "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL -- ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY." Such information produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.
- (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's confidential information, then the Party shall:

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- (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;
- (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the information requested; and
- (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party, if requested.
- (c) If a Non-Party represented by counsel fails to commence the process called for by Local Rules 45-1 and 37-1, et seq. within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information or fails contemporaneously to notify the Receiving Party that it has done so, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If an unrepresented Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court unless otherwise required by the law or court order. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve

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all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and

(d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A).

11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement into this Protective Order.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

- 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.
- 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. No Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.
- 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5 and with any pertinent orders of

the assigned District Judge and Magistrate Judge. Protected Material may only be

filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific

Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material under seal

is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information in the public

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13. FINAL DISPOSITION

record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in Section 4, within 60 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4.

1 Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate 14. 2 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary 3 sanctions. 4 15. This Stipulation and Protective Order may be executed in counterparts. Each 5 attorney executing this Stipulation below represents and warrants that their respective 6 clients have reviewed and understand the terms and provisions of, and have agree to 7 be bound by, this Stipulation, and that they respectively have each been duly 8 authorized to execute this Stipulation as agents on behalf of their respective clients, 9 who will be contractually bound by the terms and provisions herein regardless of 10 whether the Court grants this proposed Protective Order. 11 SO STIPULATED. 12 13 DATED: April 3, 2024 FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP 14 15 By: /s/ Matthew Follett 16 John J. Shaeffer Matthew Follett 17 Benjamin H. McCoy 18 Beth Weisser 19 Attorneys for Plaintiff AETNA LIFE 20 INSURANCE COMPANY 21 22 DATED: April 3, 2024 FENTON JURKOWITZ 23 /s/ Nick Jurkowitz By: Nick Jurkowitz 24 Attorneys for Defendants JOSPEH 25 FAHR, DDS and A BEAUTIFUL SMILE DENTAL CENTER - GP 26 27 28

FILER'S ATTESTATION OF CONCURRENCE I, Matthew Follett, attest that I am counsel for Plaintiff Aetna Life Insurance Company. As the ECF user and filer of this document, I attest that concurrence in the filing of this document has been obtained from its signatories. Dated: April 4, 2024 /s/ Matthew Follett Matthew Follett STIPULATION AND PROTECTIVE ORDER

1 EXHIBIT A 2 ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND 3 4 I, print or type full name], of 5 [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury 6 that I have read in its entirety and understand the Protective Order that was issued by 7 the United States District Court for the Central District of California on 8 April 3, 2024 in the case of Aetna v. Fahr, et al; Case No. 2:23-cv-9 10577-RGK-JC. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this 10 Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could 11 expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise 12 that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this 13 Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the 14 provisions of this Order. 15 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court 16 for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this 17 Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of 18 this action. I hereby appoint [print or type full 19 name] of [print or type full address 20 and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection 21 with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Protective Order. 22 Date: 23 City and State where sworn and signed: _____ 24 25 Printed name: 26 27 Signature: 28 STIPULATION AND PROTECTIVE ORDER